(d) and (e) The EOU scheme was introduced with a view to provide an internationally competitive and hassle free environment for production of goods for export. It is the Government's endeavour to simplify regulations & procedures and thereby reduce the transaction cost for the industry.

FTA with China

1627. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and China are going to have a Free Trade Agreement;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the apex body of the Indian exporters FECO supported the move with a rider to have a nagative list which should include items like textiles, auto components, leather, etc.; and

(c) the progress of talks on the FTA with China?

THE MINISTER GF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHR1 JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The India-China Joint Study Group has made a recommendation for evolving a China-India Regional Trading Arrangement comprising trade in goods and services, investments, investment promotion & facilitation and measures for promotion of economic cooperation in identified sectors.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In pursuance to the recommendations of the Joint Study Group, a Joint Task Force to study in detail the feasibility of and the benefits that may derive from the China-India Regional Trading Arrangement has been constituted and its first meeting is scheduled to held on 13 March, 2006.

Grant of patents to inventions

1628. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of inventions, which have been granted Patents by